

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01504 021731Z

47

ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 EB-07 L-03 FMC-02 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9376

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UNCLAS MOSCOW 1504

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DOT FOR RAMUNDO TPI-42

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION: RAIL (05.030):

EXCHANGE OF RAILWAY TIES, COUPLER

REF: STATE 22324, MOSCOW 1109, MOSCOW 0975

1. EMBOFF 30 JANUARY DISCUSSED POINTS IN REF A WITH ISHCENKO, WHO SAID THAT ERRONEOUS INFORMATION ON EARLY DEPARTURE (REF C) WAS INDEED WHAT SCST HAD RECEIVED FROM MORFLOT. EMBOFF REVIEWED EVENTS OF 26 JANUARY WITH ISHCENKO, AND POINTED OUT THAT THIS ERRONEOUS INFORMATION HAD CAUSED MANY DIFFICULTIES AND HAD COST BOTH SIDES THE PRESS COVERAGE THE EVENT WARRENTED.
2. EMBOFF IMPRESSED UPON ISHCENKO THE NEED FOR ACCURATE INFORMATION IN ALL AREAS OF COOPERATION, AND REQUESTED FULL PARTICULARS ON DELIVERY OF TIES AND ON ANY CEREMONY DESIRED OR PLANNED, INCLUDING NAMES OF SOVIET OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE PRESENT.
3. ISHCENKO 2 FEBRUARY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT DELIVERY IS STILL SCHEDULED FOR "ABOUT 10 FEBRUARY, AND THAT FULL DETAILS OF DELIVERY AND CEREMONY WERE BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN MORFLOT NYC REP AND SOVIET EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE. ASKED WHO IN LATTER OFFICE WAS HANDLING DETAILS, ISHCENKO SAID THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01504 021731Z

4. FYI. IN DISCUSSIONS OF 27 JANUARY, LEVTONOV OBSERVED THAT

(A) CHANGE OF DATE WAS AN ERROR; THAT SHIP WAS STAYING IN PORT UNTIL 27 JANUARY AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED; AND (B) CAPTAIN HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF DATE-CHANGE ON CEREMONY SINCE, BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, SHIP'S RADIOS WERE TURNED OFF IN PORT. LEVTONOV REMARKED THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS TOO LATE SINCE 26 JANUARY HAD ALREADY PASSED, AND THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE MADE ANY DIFFERENCE ANYWAY. EMBOFF CONCURRED THAT INFORMATION WAS TOO LATE, BUT EXPRESSED FEAR THAT INFORMATION MIGHT HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. STOESSEL

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